20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 22

COVER A

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

FLYNN • TRAMONTANO

SEGA®

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STORY SO FAR...

Dr. Eggman has unleashed a Metal Virus capable of infecting living organic matter and turning it into zombie-like robots (Zombots) that can infect others and that respond only to his command. As the Metal Virus spreads, cities and heroes–including Sonic himself–have been infected.

Now, Tails finds himself in Central City, researching a cure...

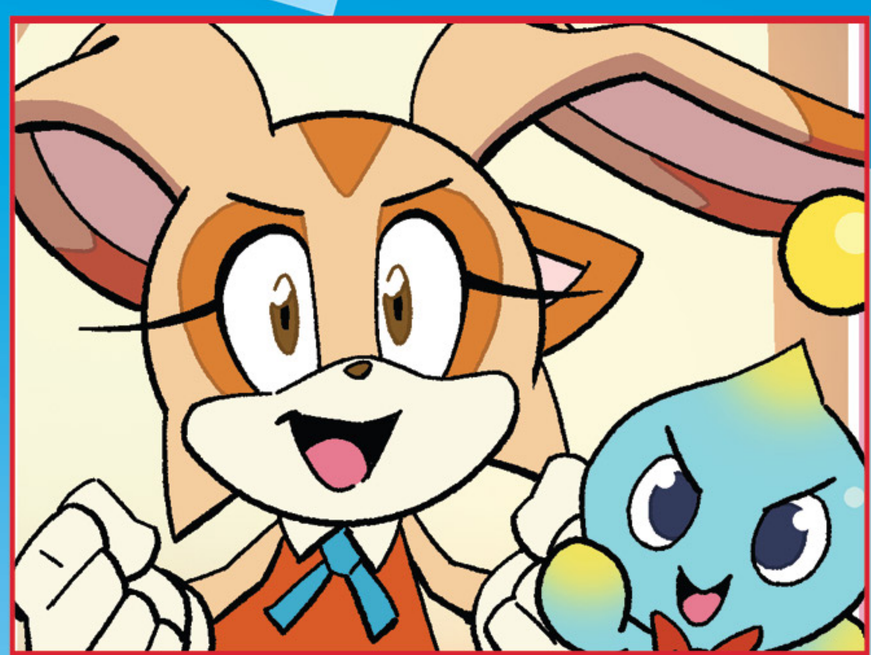
...Amy organizes rescue missions from Restoration HQ...

...And Sonic races to create speed data for Tails's research...

...As it all comes down to the last minute!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

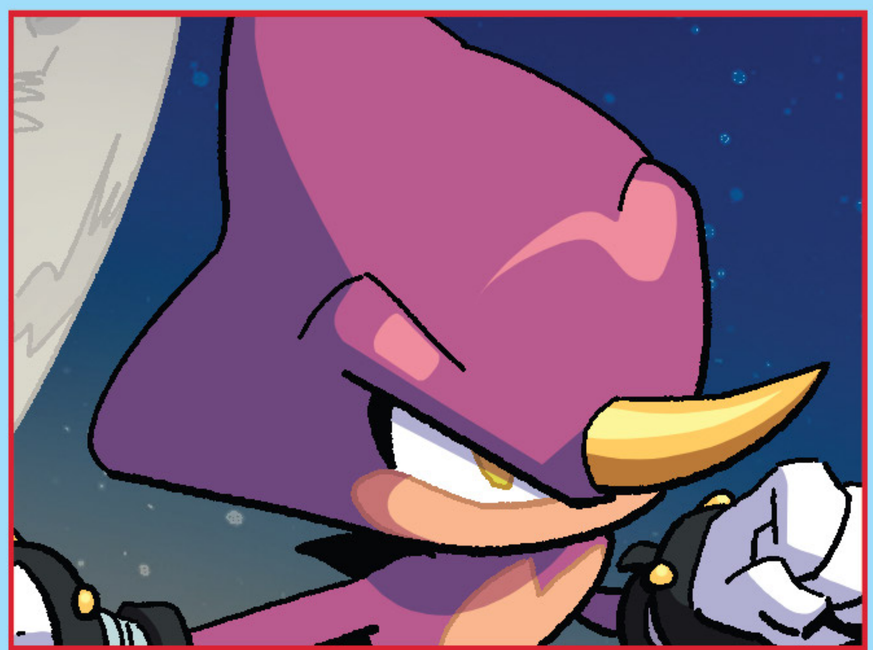
AMY ROSE
Hammer-Swinging Heroine.
Restoration organizer.



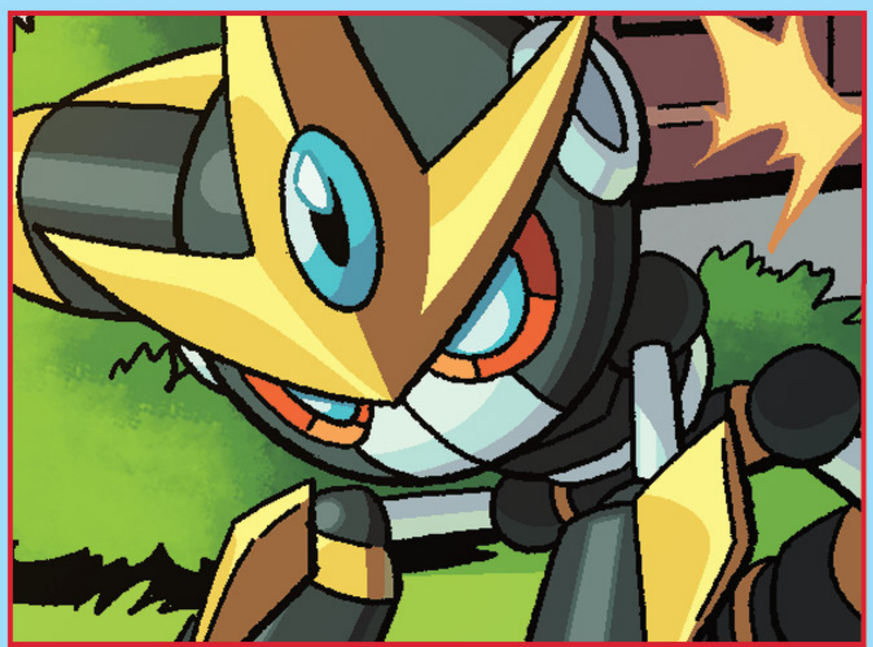
CREAM THE RABBIT
Gentle Heroine.
Restoration ally.

VANILLA THE RABBIT
Loving Mother.
Restoration ally.

VECTOR THE CROCODILE
Rockin' Lead Detective.
Chaotix Detective Agency.



ESPIO THE CHAMELEON
Ninja Investigator.
Chaotix Detective Agency.



GEMERL
Reformed Robot.
Cream's Protector.

RESTORATION HQ.

HOO-BOY... LET'S SEE WHERE WE ARE...

SONIC'S RUNNING AROUND GETTING DATA FOR TAILS. HE SHOULD BE NEAR BARRICADE TOWN BY NOW, I THINK.*

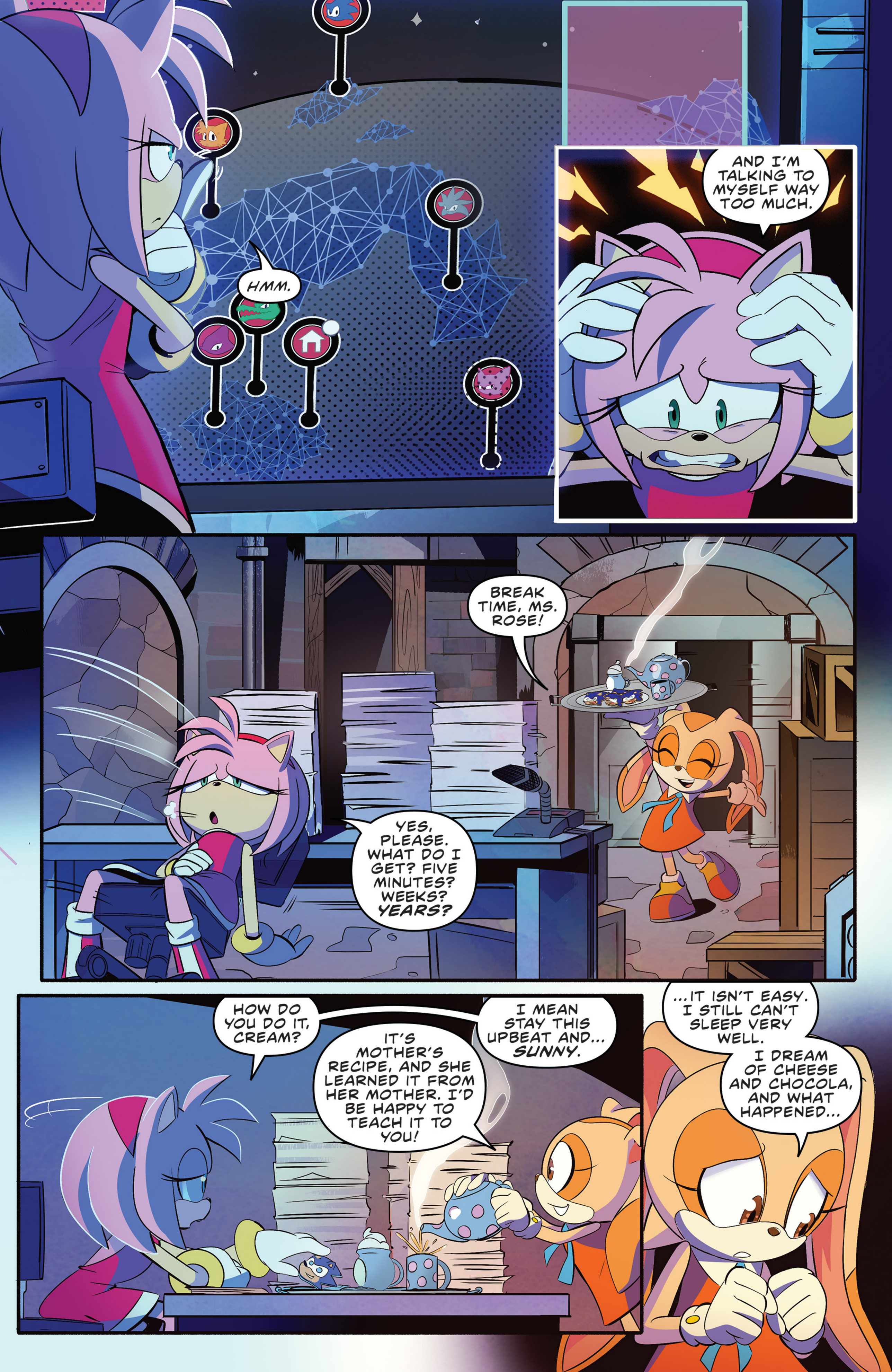
TAILS IS DOING HIS RESEARCH IN CENTRAL CITY WHILE TANGLE AND WHISPER COVER SUPPORT AND EVACUATION.**

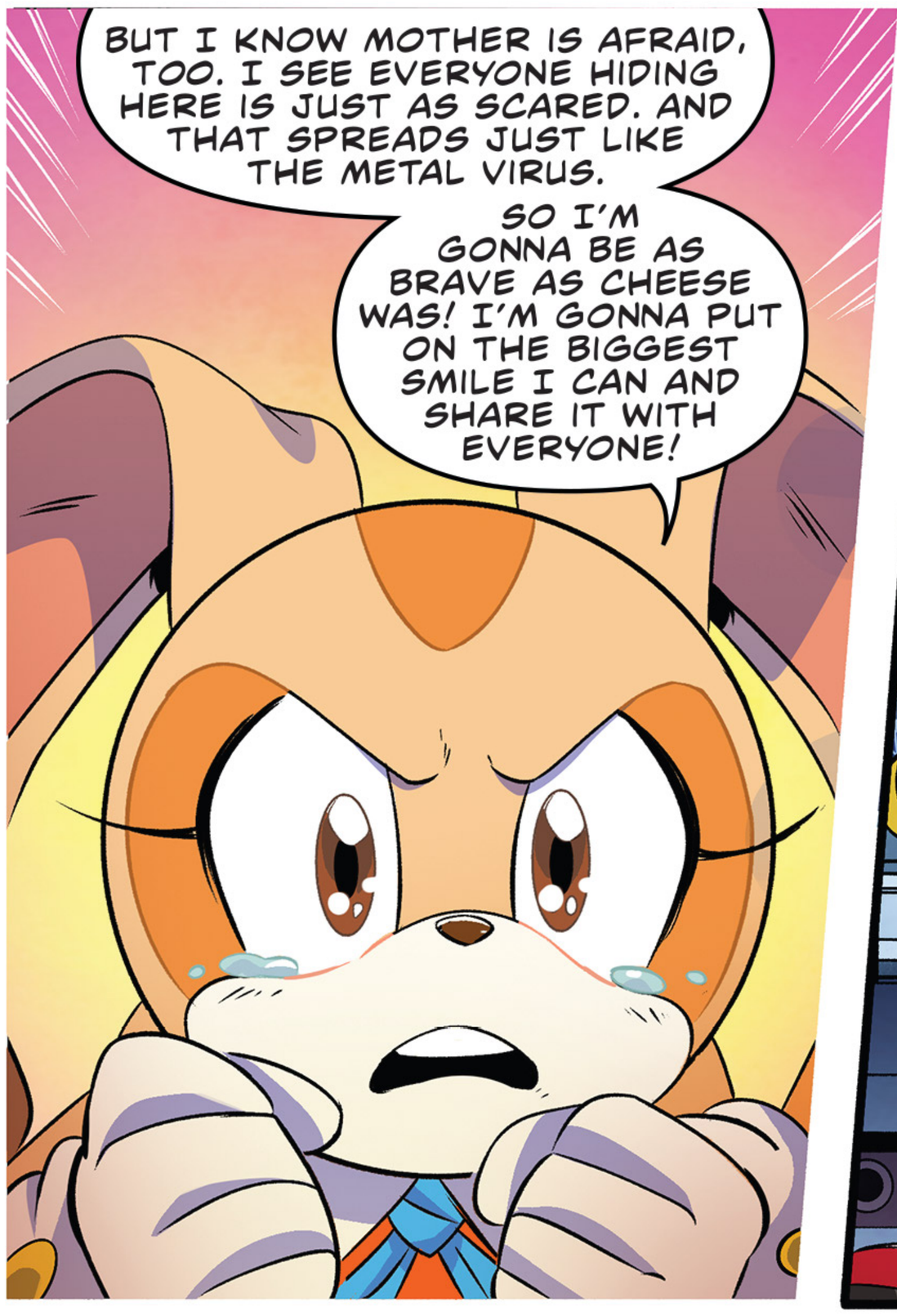
SILVER IS HANDLING THE EVACUATION OF ICE PARADISE ON HIS OWN.

LOOKS LIKE VECTOR AND ESPIO JUST GOT BACK WITH THE REFUGEES FROM PINE GROVE VILLAGE.

=SIGH= ROUGE IS STILL MISSING IN ACTION.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
*HAPPENING "NOW" IN STH#23
**HAPPENING "NOW" IN STH#21

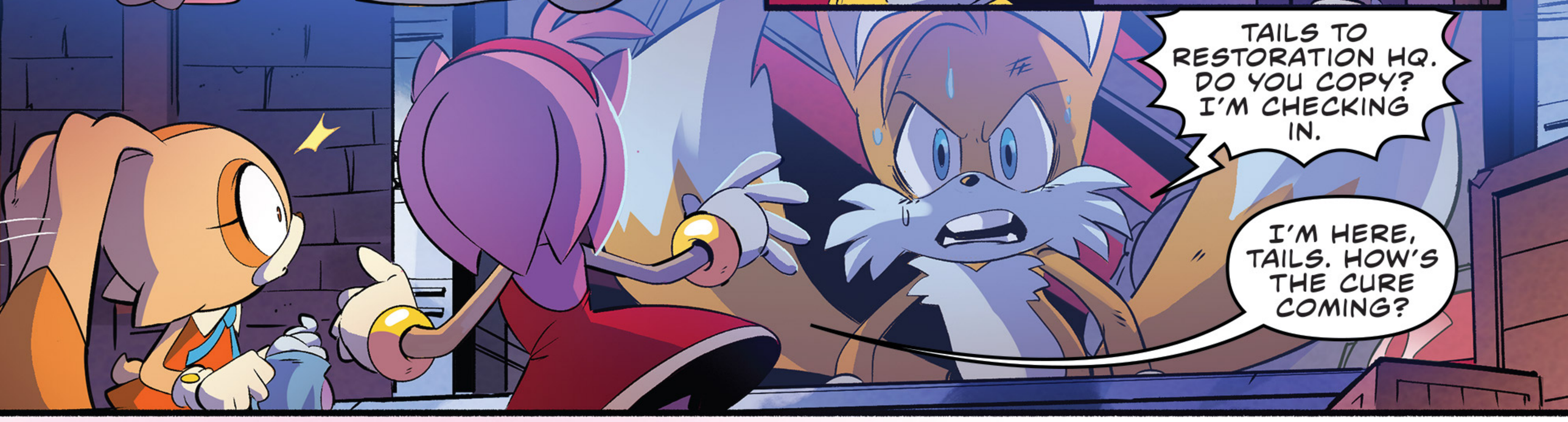

HMM.
AND I'M TALKING TO MYSELF WAY TOO MUCH.
BREAK TIME, MS. ROSE!
YES, PLEASE. WHAT DO I GET? FIVE MINUTES? WEEKS? YEARS?
HOW DO YOU DO IT, CREAM?
IT'S MOTHER'S RECIPE, AND SHE LEARNED IT FROM HER MOTHER. I'D BE HAPPY TO TEACH IT TO YOU!
I MEAN STAY THIS UPBEAT AND... SUNNY.
...IT ISN'T EASY. I STILL CAN'T SLEEP VERY WELL.
I DREAM OF CHEESE AND CHOCOLA, AND WHAT HAPPENED...


BUT I KNOW MOTHER IS AFRAID, TOO. I SEE EVERYONE HIDING HERE IS JUST AS SCARED. AND THAT SPREADS JUST LIKE THE METAL VIRUS.
SO I'M GONNA BE AS BRAVE AS CHEESE WAS! I'M GONNA PUT ON THE BIGGEST SMILE I CAN AND SHARE IT WITH EVERYONE!

AND I CAN DO THAT BECAUSE OF YOU. YOU'RE A HERO, AND AN ADVENTURER, AND YOU NEVER GIVE UP! YOU AND MR. SONIC AND ALL OUR FRIENDS WILL FIND A WAY TO SAVE US.
SO WHY BE SAD WHEN I KNOW THINGS WILL BE OKAY IN THE END?

YOU'RE MY HERO TOO, CREAM. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

NOW THEN—HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR TEA?
RIGHT NOW? PLAIN'S FINE. I JUST NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP ME UP.


TAILS TO RESTORATION HQ. DO YOU COPY? I'M CHECKING IN.
I'M HERE, TAILS. HOW'S THE CURE COMING?

MEANWHILE, ON LOST HEX...
WE'VE BEEN GRANTED A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.
EGGMAN'S NEWEST PATSY HAS INVITED US INTO HIS BASE. HE EXPECTS US TO FIX THE CRISIS ON THE WORLD BELOW.
WE WILL ACCEPT HIS HOSPITALITY AND THEN *PUNISH* HIM FOR IT.
UNLESS, Y'KNOW, THIS IS ANOTHER TRAP. I'D RATHER NOT BE EGGMAN'S SLAVE AGAIN, 'KAY? THANKS.
YOU DARE?
WE UNDERESTIMATED THE DOCTOR THE FIRST TIME. THIS TIME WE ARE PREPARED. WE WILL PUNISH HIM FOR OUR HUMILIATION.
WE WILL DESTROY SONIC FOR DEFEATING US. AND WE WILL GRIND THEIR WORLD TO DUST IN RETRIBUTION.

THANK YOU FOR THE REFRESHMENTS. I'D LOVE TO RELAX WITH YOU, BUT I SHOULD GET BACK TO WORK.
ME TOO.
QUIT SHOVIN'!
FROGGY?! WHERE ARE YOU?!
IS THIS ALL THE SPACE THEY HAVE?
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM FOR EVERYONE...
I SAID BACK OFF, MACK!

UNIT'S DESIGNATION IS NOT "MACK." IT IS GEMERL.

I DON'T CARE IF IT WERE "KING OF EVERYTHING"! YOU AIN'T THROWIN' CHARMY OUT!

YOU HAVE BROUGHT IN A ZOMBOT. HE IS A PATHOGENIC THREAT TO CREAM. HE MUST BE REMOVED.

HE GOT INFECTED BY BEIN' A HERO!

I DIDN'T CARRY THIS CONTAINMENT BUBBLE EVERY-WHERE AND TRACK HIM DOWN JUST FOR YOU TO THROW HIM OUT!

THE CHAOTIX DON'T ABANDON THEIR OWN! I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM! AND I'LL HAVE AN EASIER TIME WITHOUT YOU BREATHING DOWN MY NECK!

THIS UNIT DOES NOT BREATHE.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!

GEMERL! IT'S OKAY!

NEGATIVE. CHARMY BEE IS A THREAT TO YOUR HEALTH.

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, REMEMBER?*

AFFIRMATIVE. CHARMY BEE IS A VICTIM. BUT...

MR. VECTOR AND MR. ESPIO WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.

THEY WON'T LET ANYONE GET SICK FROM HIM.

*STH #18.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, BUT VECTOR HAS A SOLID PLAN.

WE'LL SECURELY STORE CHARMY IN TAILS'S LAB ALONGSIDE OMEGA.

ONCE TAILS HAS FOUND THE CURE, CHARMY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ACCESSIBLE.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WONDERFUL PLAN!

IT IS... ACCEPTABLE.

DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. YOU'LL LEARN TO THINK LIKE US ONE DAY.

ILLOGICALLY AND SELF-DESTRUCTIVELY?

ER... NO...

SHEESH, NOT MUCH ROOM TO MOVE, HUH? IS THIS INCH TAKEN?
IT'S FINE.

I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE. YOU?
J-JUST GOT IN FROM PINE GROVE VILLAGE.
NEVER BEEN.

I-IT WAS N-NICE...
I'M SURE IT WAS.
I'M FROM GLASS HILL. EGGMAN DIDN'T COME ANYWHERE NEAR US. IT WAS ALL ZOMBOTS FROM OTHER PLACES THAT JUST WANDERED INTO TOWN AND...

HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?
I-I'M S-S-SORRY...

...I... I JUST... D-DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE...

ZOMBOT! IT'S A ZOMBOT!
AHHH!
NOO!
HELP!
EVERYONE STAY CALM! DON'T-OOF!
LOOK OUT, CREAM!
NO! CHARMY!
KRIK
LEMME THROUGH! IT'S GONNA-

CHNK

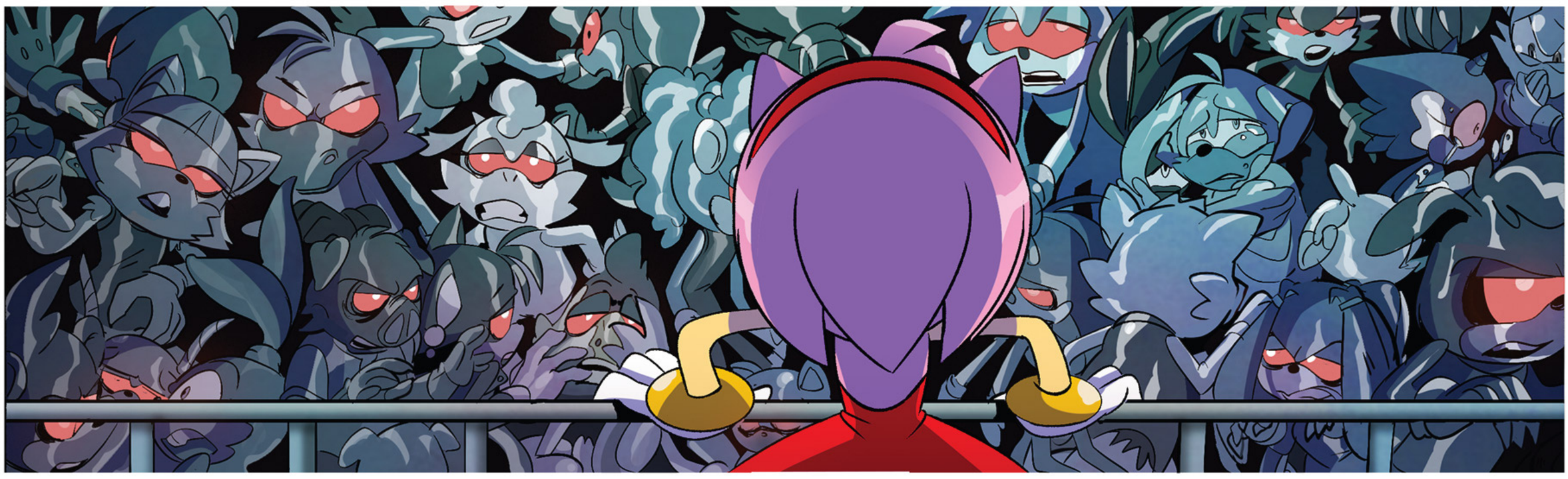
CRASH
AHHH! RUN! HELP!

MOTHER?!

ALUOOGA
ALUOOGA

ALLOOGAAALLOOGAAALLOOGA
...OH NO...
ALL PILOTS TO YOUR SHUTTLES. PREP FOR IMMEDIATE TAKE-OFF!
RESTORATION HQ HAS BEEN COMPROMISED! I'M INITIATING A FULL EVAC!
ALL FIELD TEAMS! WE–
CLANG
PIKO

HOW BAD IS IT?
TEN PERCENT INFECTION AND GROWING EXPONENTIALLY. I CANNOT CONTAIN ACTIVE ZOMBOTS.
GRAB OMEGA AND GET TO THE LAUNCH BAY! SCAN EVERYONE WHO TRIES TO GET IN!
NEGATIVE. I MUST PROTECT CREAM. I LOST HER WHEN I WAS ATTACKED. I MUST...
YOU'RE THE FASTEST ONE HERE, AND WE'LL NEED TAILS TO REBUILD OMEGA LATER TO PROTECT EVERYONE.
GET OMEGA. GET TO THE SHUTTLES. I'LL FIND CREAM AND BRING HER RIGHT TO YOU.
ORDERS ACKNOWLEDGED.



PIKO

CREAM! WE'VE GOT TO GO!
PIKO

MUH... MUH... MUH...
...MOTHER!
MS. ROSE! PLEASE! GET MY LITTLE GIRL TO SAFETY!
PIKO
THANK YOU.
NO! MOTHER! NO!

NO! GO BACK! GO BACK!
GEMERL?
MISSION OBJECTIVES COMPLETE. SCANNING... YOU ARE BOTH FREE OF INFECTION.
G-GO BACK... PLEASE...
WHERE ARE THE OTHER PILOTS?
ONLY ONE MADE IT THROUGH. NOT THAT MANY OF THE REFUGEES MADE IT, EITHER.
GO FIND YOUR SEAT. I'LL BE WITH YOU IN JUST A SECOND, OKAY?

SCAN COMPLETE. EVERYONE WITHIN IS INFECTED TO SOME DEGREE.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S CLOSE IT UP BEFORE...
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
I SWEAR, KID. YOU'RE *SUCH* A PAIN IN MY TAIL.
VECTOR—!

VECTOR IS COMPROMISED. IMMEDIATE QUARANTINE REQUIRED.
YEAH-YEAH-YEAH. I GUESS THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR LOOKIN' AFTER MY OWN.
I'LL BEAT 'EM BACK! CLOSE UP THE DOOR BEHIND ME!
HEY, ESPIO, YOU'RE LEAD DETECTIVE NOW.
CLANG

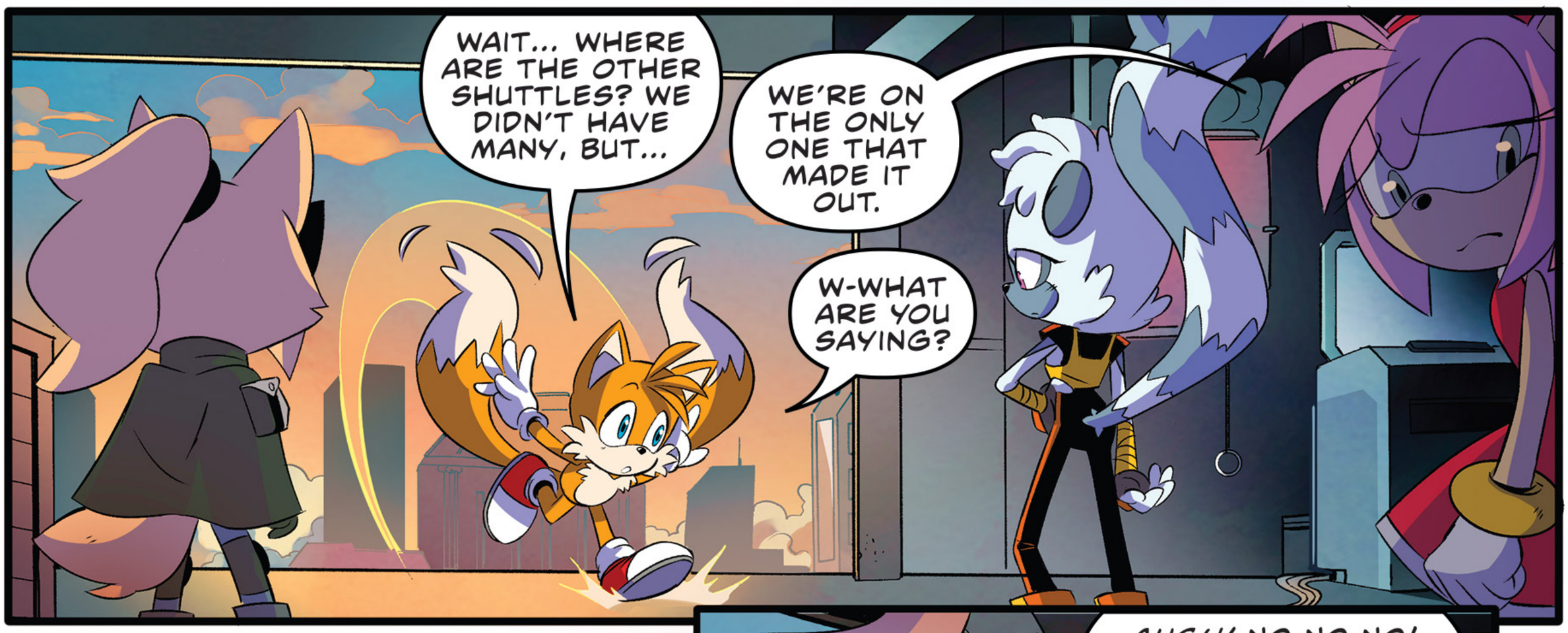
VECTOR IS... VERY STRONG.
AS A ZOMBOT, HE WILL BREAK DOWN THE DOORS SOON.
SNIFF Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED TO GO.
ESPIO... C'MON. WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE.
R-ROGER THAT...
WHOOSH

SOON— CENTRAL CITY BAY.

C'MON, PEOPLE! OUR RIDE IS HERE! HUSTLE! HUSTLE! HUSTLE!

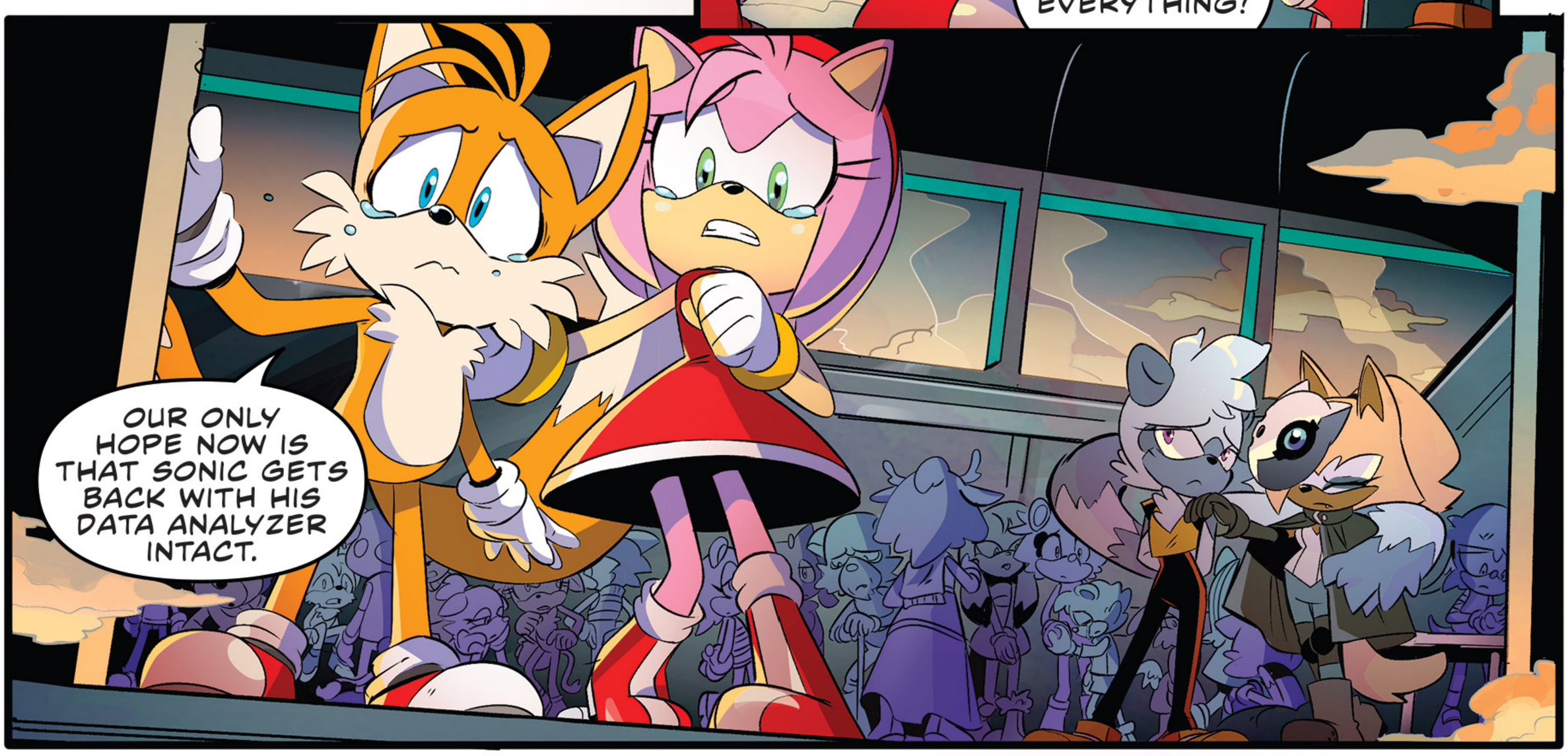
TAILS! WE'RE AIRBORNE! C'MON!

BOOM

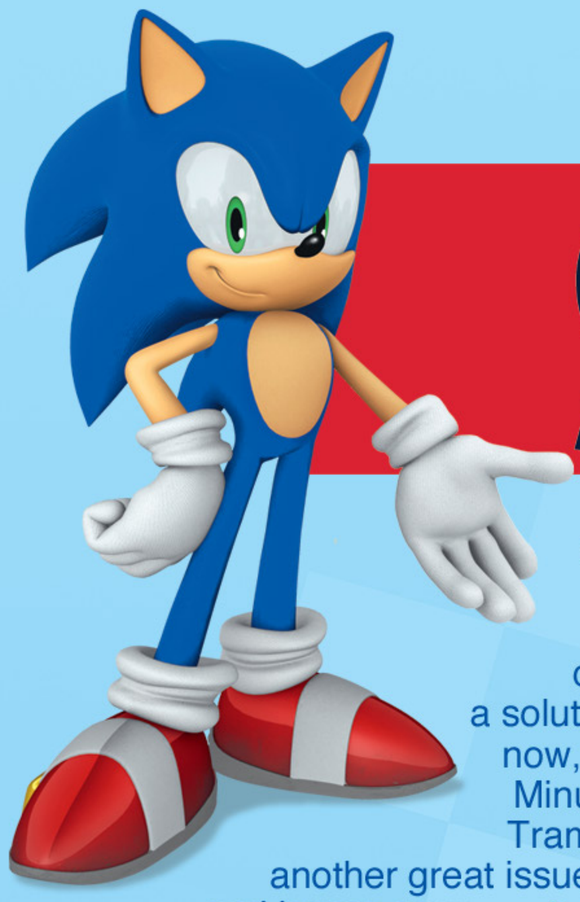

WAIT... WHERE ARE THE OTHER SHUTTLES? WE DIDN'T HAVE MANY, BUT...
WE'RE ON THE ONLY ONE THAT MADE IT OUT.
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

RESTORATION HQ HAS FALLEN, AND ALMOST EVERYONE WITH IT.

AUGH! NO-NO-NO! EVEN IF THE UPLOAD WAS INCOMPLETE, I COULD'VE STILL DONE SOMETHING IN MY LAB THERE!
YOU MEAN THE DATA FOR THE CURE? IT'S...?
GONE! THE ZOMBOTS TRASHED EVERYTHING!


OUR ONLY HOPE NOW IS THAT SONIC GETS BACK WITH HIS DATA ANALYZER INTACT.

JEWEL? YEAH, I CAN HEAR—SLOW DOWN. WHAT'S HAPPENING?
NEXT TIME:
THE SAME DAY, A DIFFERENT ADVENTURE!



SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello Squad! Whoof! Well… things aren't going so well… Restoration base has fallen. Tails lost the cure. At least Sonic's gonna have a solution next issue, right? RIGHT?! For now, big ups to the team on "The Last Minute, Part 2", Ian Flynn, Priscilla Tramontano, and Shawn Lee for another great issue! And let's take a look at your art and letters as we wait to see what Sonic's part of the day looks like next issue!

Hi IDW,

I have been a fan of Sonic the Hedgehog for the entire existence of the franchise. The comics side of things has always been my favorite part of the series, and my favorite part of the comics is the extended world beyond what the games can get into. While I love the characters I've grown up with, I have been quite excited for the Tangle and Whisper miniseries. My only complaint so far is that it's just a miniseries. I would just love it if Tangle and Whisper continued as an ongoing. I suppose I'd like to ask if there's anything a fan who buys all the comics can do to insure we have more comics in the Sonic the Hedgehog world?

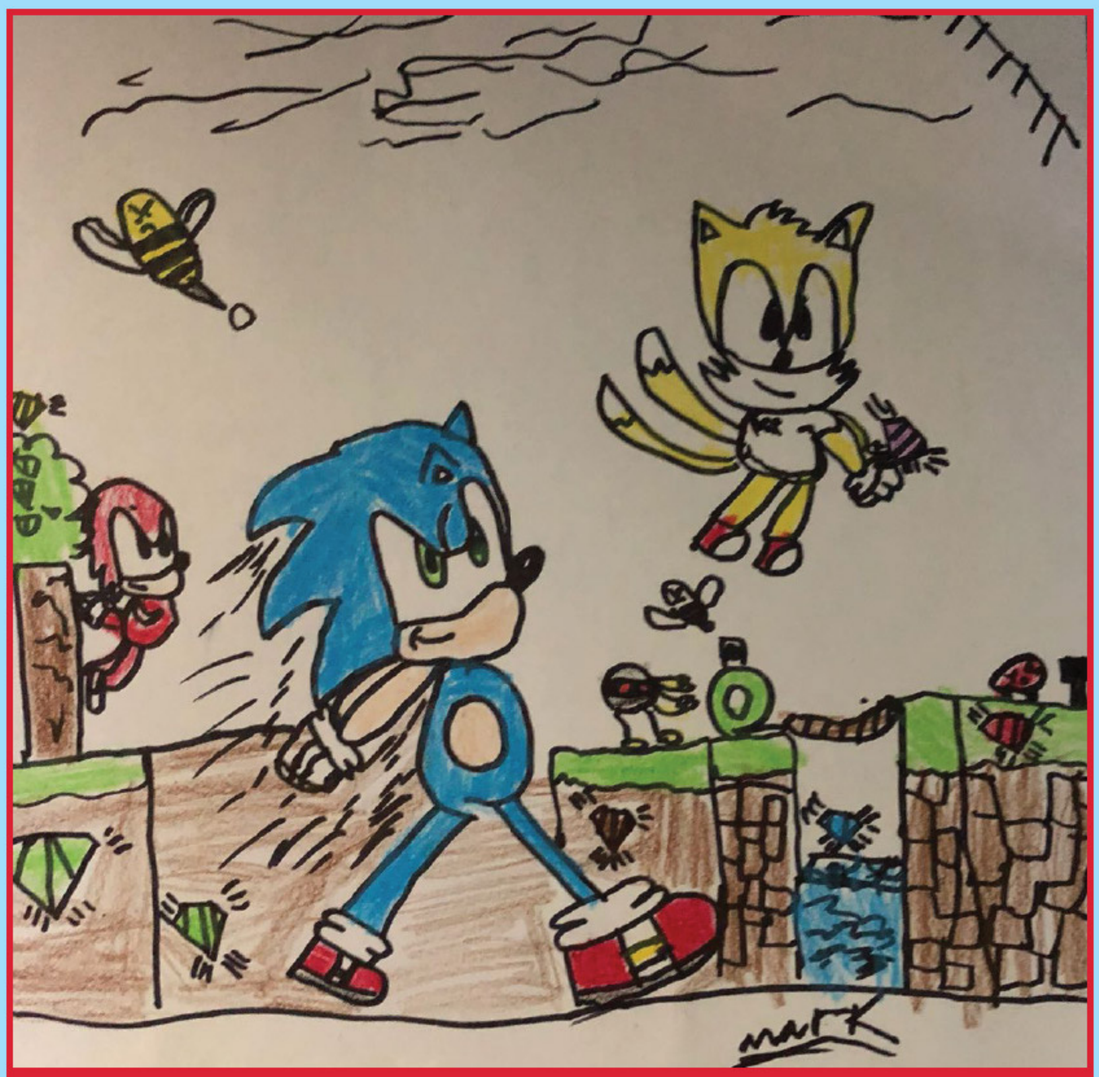
Sincerely,
Stephen C.

Hi Stephen,

Sounds like you've been a fan for a long time and glad to hear we're making Sonic comics that still excite you so much! Y'know, we think your complaint's pretty reasonable—Tangle & Whisper is really great and there should be more! If you want to help make something like that happen, the best thing to do is to keep buying the comics, for sure, but also to help other folks find the comics! If you have friends who like Sonic—or just good comics—who aren't reading our series yet, get them started! As per future stories extending and expanding the world of Sonic, well… it's always a possibility.

Hi Sonic Comic Squad!

Zombots, Shapeshifters, and Mad Doctors, oh my! I know we're already nearly 2 years in but it has just flown by! You guys hit the ground running (pardon the pun) and, like a certain infected hedgehog, just haven't slowed down! Love how everyone is getting a chance to interact and bounce off each other even during big spectacle events like The Battle for Angel Island and the breathing space inbetween arcs is a welcome addition



Art by Mark M.

Art by Rik Mack

(Knuckles 'Get off my island' being a particular highlight)! Major props and congrats to all involved for a thoroughly entertaining run thus far, and here's to a bright future!

Speaking of the future, any plans for a covers gallery type art book? After seeing all the stellar covers that have been released so far it would be a crime not to!

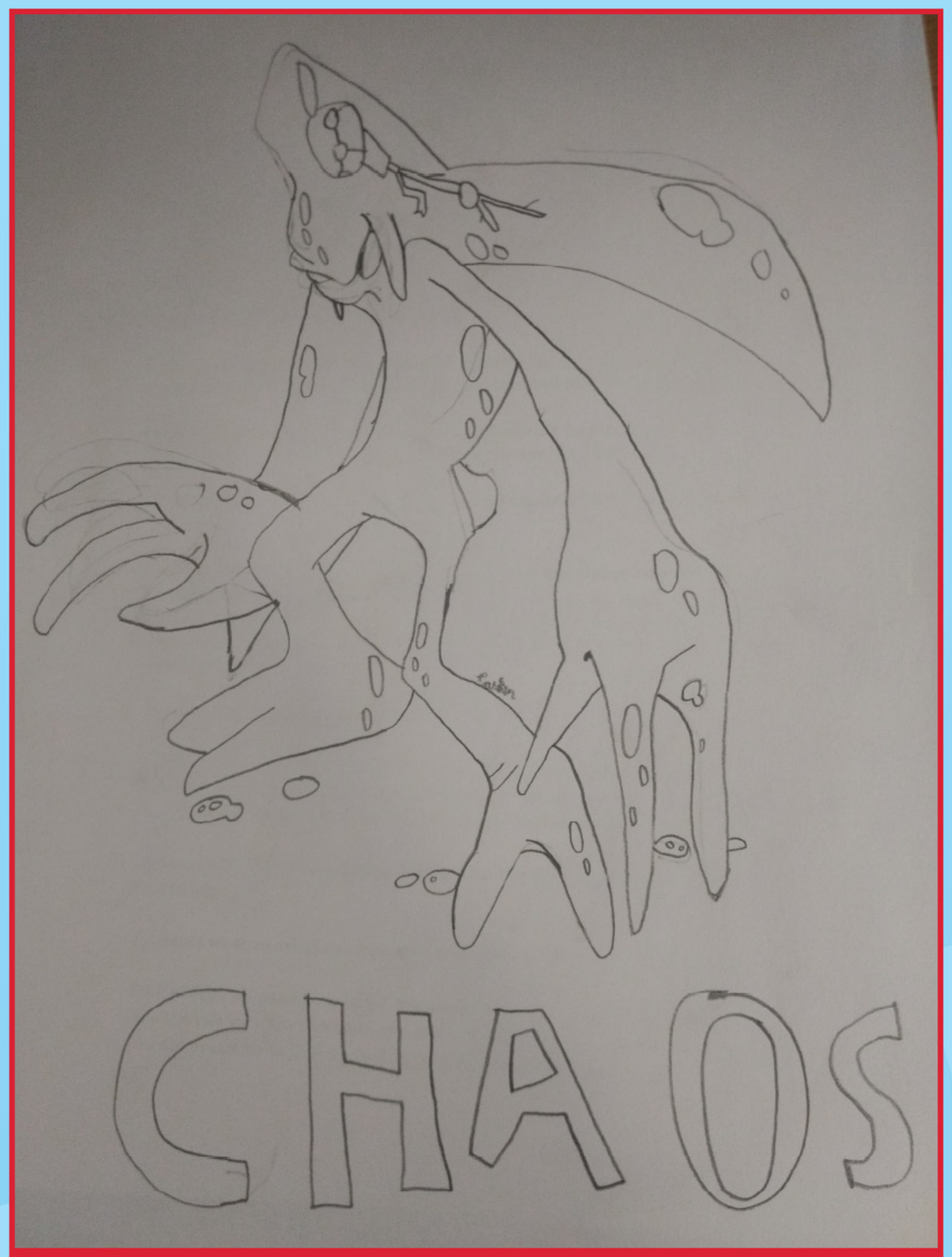
Rik

Hi Rik,

Thank you for the kind words! It seems like just yesterday that we started, but, you're right, we're almost two full years through the run! And, in those two years, you're absolutely right; we've gotten a lot of really great covers! So, right now, we have 22 issues of the ongoing, which always has at least 3 covers, which makes 66 pages. Adding the other ongoing covers we have, we're closer to 80 right now (not counting the ones that are variations on other covers). And then an extra 3 from the Annual and an extra batch from Tangle & Whisper brings us to about 100 covers already. I guess that's enough pages for us to fill out a book sometime, if we wanted. We'll keep that in mind!

Hello my fellow Sonic enthusiasts! As of the time I'm writing this, issue 21 is about to come out and I am super excited for it. I can't believe they're bringing back the Deadly Six, and I'm super excited to see what Ian Flynn is going to do with them. My aunt has also been reading the comics and while she is not completely caught up she still enjoys them and we're both excited to see what happens next. I've also attached a piece of art that I've drawn, and I'm usually not very good at drawing so I think I did pretty well with this, what do you think? I also have a question, are the Babylon Rogues going to come back as regular recurring characters or was their appearance in the 2019 Annual a one-time thing? Well that's all for me keep up the great work!

Parker Lloyd



Art by Parker Lloyd

Hi Parker!

That's an excellent drawing of Chaos! Thank you for sending it our way and letting us share! Glad you're so excited to see the Deadly Six coming back. We saw them for a moment in this issue, but expect to see more of them very soon! And as per the Babylon Rogues, they haven't been around recently, huh? Hope they didn't get infected and become zombots. Guess we'll have to keep our eyes out and see if they pop up again soon!

Hi there! I really love the Tangle and Whisper series. The original characters for IDW Sonic are both greatly designed and interestingly written and I can't wait to see more of how the series goes! I think Tangle and Whisper make a great team, so I drew this picture of them. I wanted to base it a bit on the team artwork used in Sonic Advance 3? What do you think?

Keep up the good work, I'm excited to see what future issues bring!

Sarah

Hi Sarah,

Glad you're enjoying the Tangle & Whisper series! We've been having a lot of fun putting it out and really love those two! They've had their moments of struggling, but now I think they're going to be a really great team going forward! As per the picture you sent, it's really great and definitely in that Sonic Advance style! Since you like that style, keep an eye out for the cover to the upcoming issue #24 by Aaron Hammerstrom. Aaron recreated Sonic and Tangle in Sonic Advance pixel art style and it's super cool!

Hi everyone!

My name is Maddi and I've been following Sonic for over 10 years now! I first got into the games and comics when I was 7 or 8, and now I'm almost 19 and still loving absolutely everything about the series! I recently put together my first Sonic-related cosplay with the help of my mom and aunt; Rouge is my favorite girl in the series so I HAD to be her for a few local conventions!

Also, I've been loving the IDW comics thus far and can't wait for what else is in store! Keep up the all the great work you do!

Maddi

Art by Sarah Handel

Hi Maddi!

Thanks for the kind words and for sharing your excellent cosplay with us! You did a great job as Rouge (though your height difference with Shadow's a little off in that photo). And it's great to hear about families making cosplay and reading comics together—props to your mom and aunt! Speaking of cosplay and costumes, hope you and all the other fans who don Sonic costumes for the Halloween holiday have a great and safe one this year!

Thanks for joining us, Squad! Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next issue, Part 3 of "The Last Minute" has Sonic going face-to-face(ship) with those baddies, Dr. Eggman and Dr. Starline! And don't forget to pick up Sonic: Tangle & Whisper #4, the final issue, also on sale this month!

Cosplay by Maddi, Photo by Aaisha Payne

20 YEARS OF DW

ISSUE 1

ERMAN • SHAMMAS • GARBOWSKA • BRYS

CARE BEARS™ UNLOCK THE MAGIC

FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME SERIES YOU MAY LIKE...

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MATTHEW ERMAN & NADIA SHAMMAS

ART BY
AGNES GARBOWSKA

COLORS BY
SILVANA BRYS

DESIGN AND LETTERS BY
CHRISTA MIESNER

ASSISTANT EDITS BY
MEGAN BROWN

EDITS BY
BOBBY CURNOW

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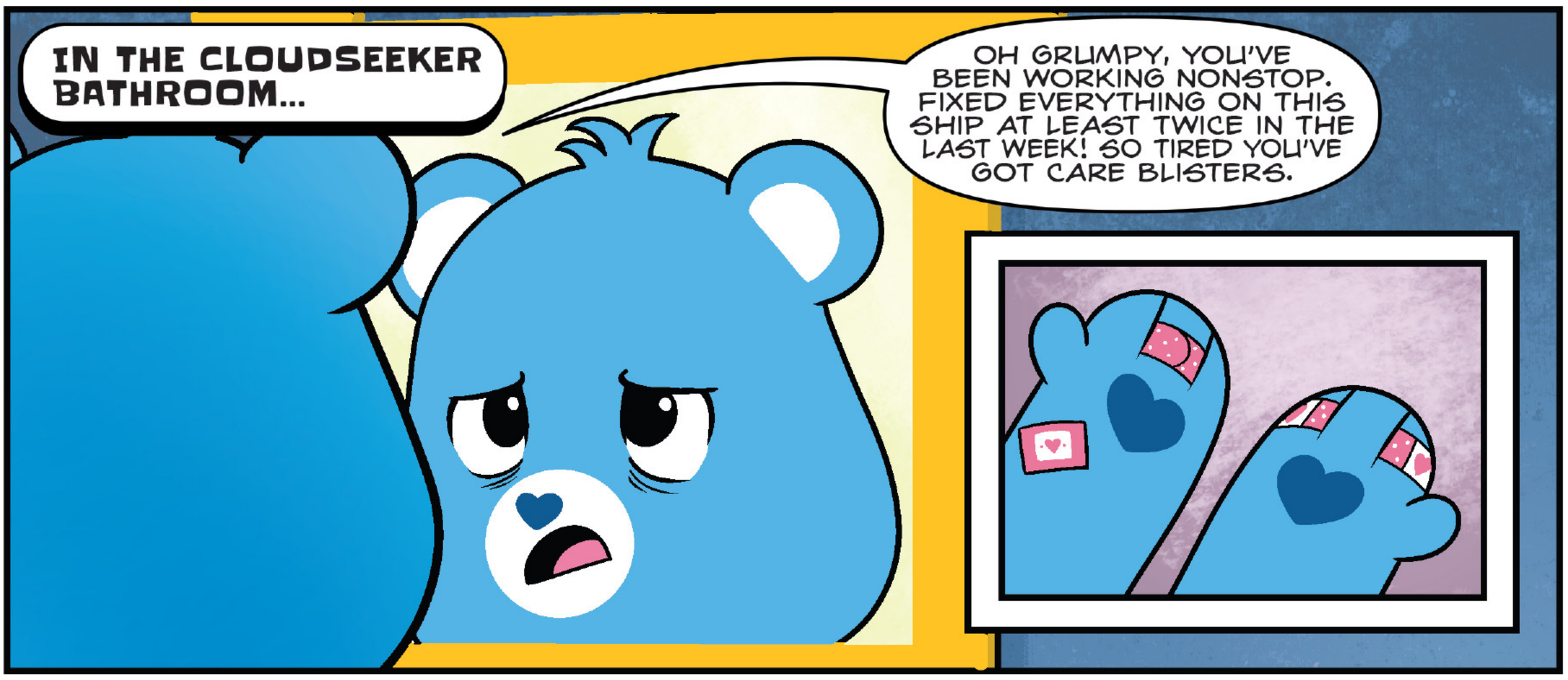
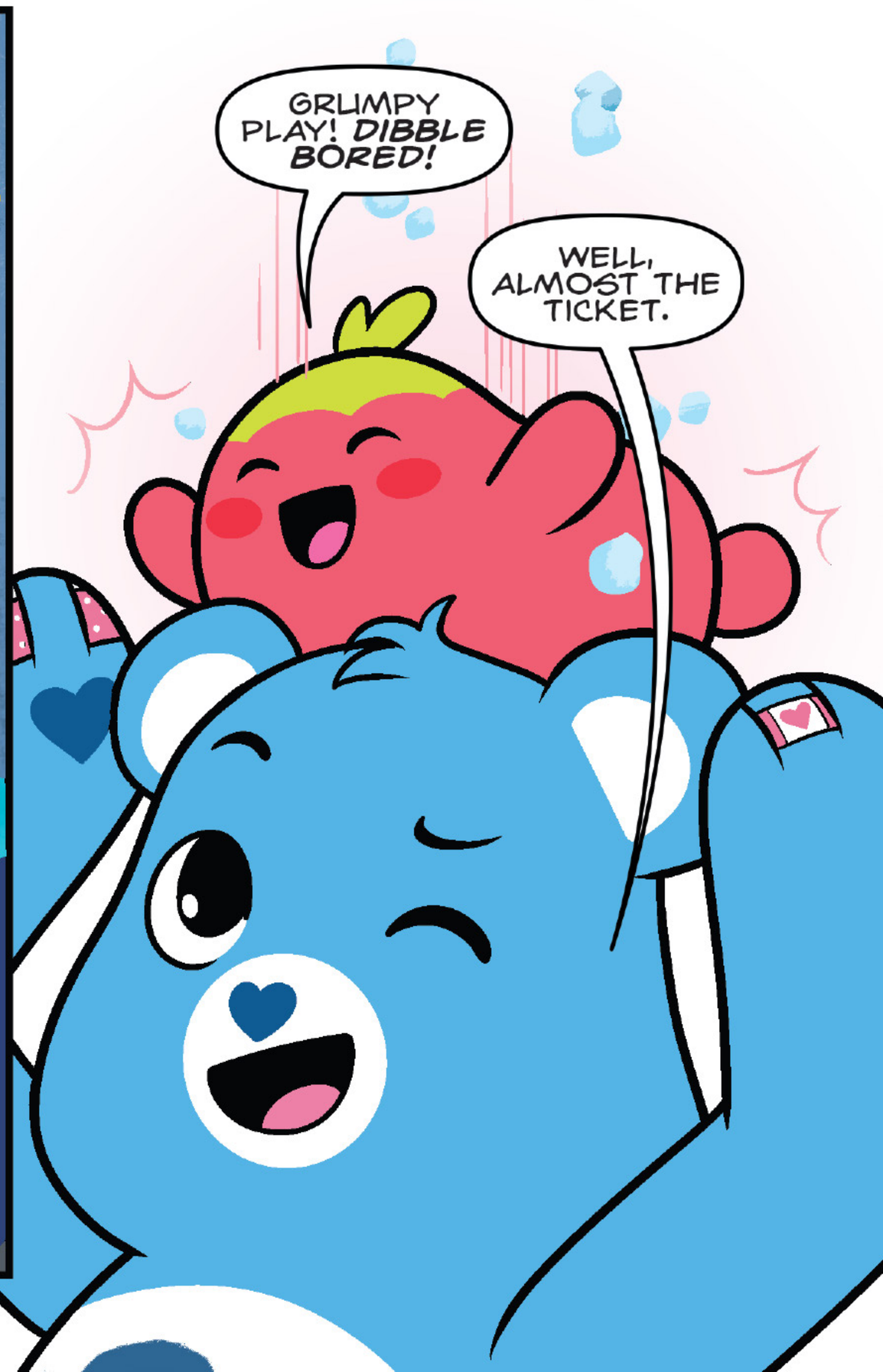
HA HA HA HA HA! ROBBIE! YOU'VE FINALLY DONE IT!
IT WUDN'T NOTHIN', NOT FOR ME! I'M THE BEST AT BEING BAD!
HEH. WELL, SECOND BEST AT BEING BAD! WHICH IS PRETTY BAD CONSIDERIN' I'M NUMBER ONE! ME! BLUSTER!
THIS IS ONE BAD DOODAD, ROBBIE! WITH THIS, WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SPREAD BLUSTERLAND AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE! WE'RE GUNNA STOP THE WHIFFLES FROM PLANTING ANY MORE OF THOSE SEEDS OF CARING!
THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM!

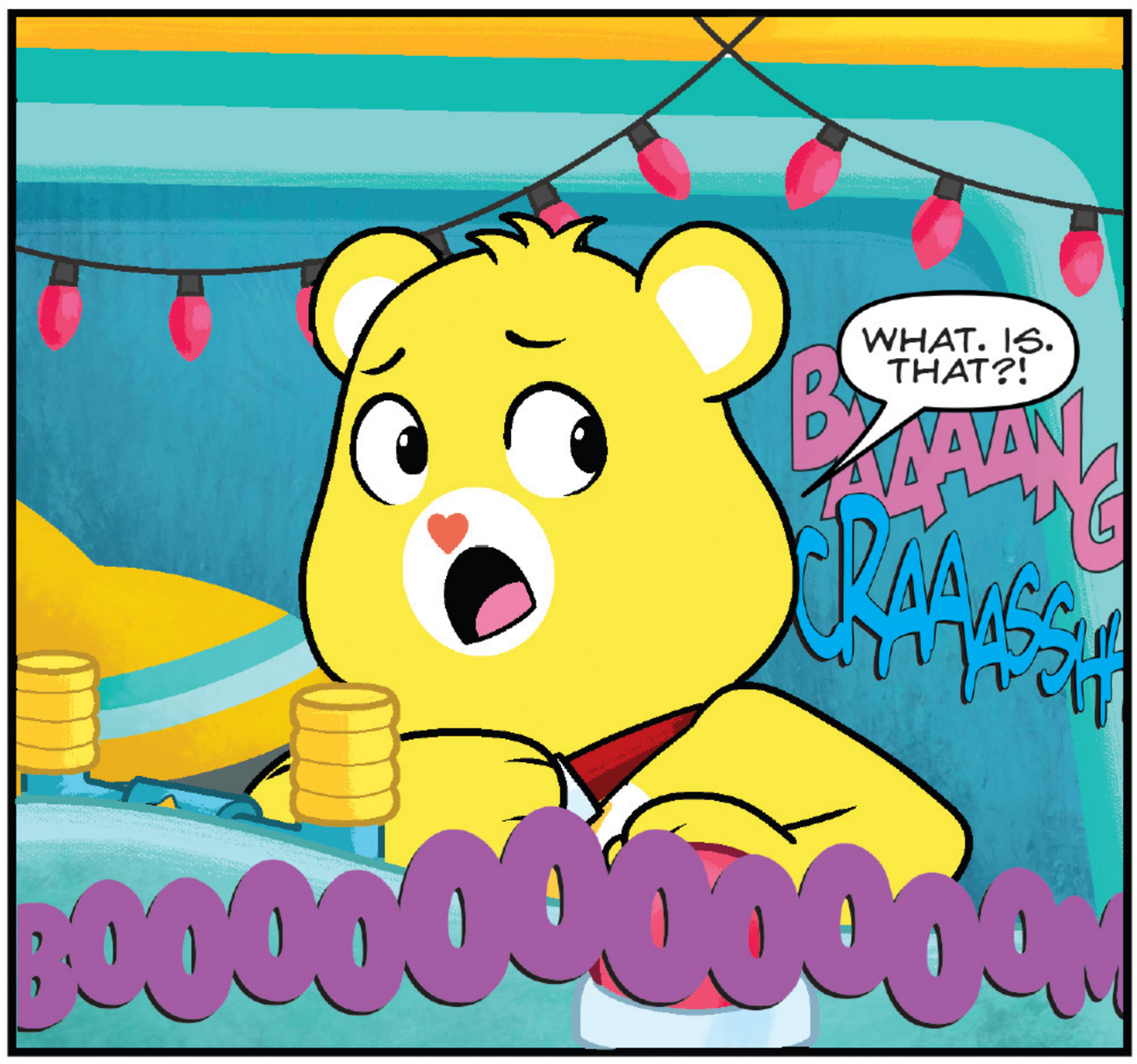
MEANWHILE...


IN THE CLOUDSEEKER BATHROOM...
OH GRUMPY, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING NONSTOP. FIXED EVERYTHING ON THIS SHIP AT LEAST TWICE IN THE LAST WEEK! SO TIRED YOU'VE GOT CARE BLISTERS.

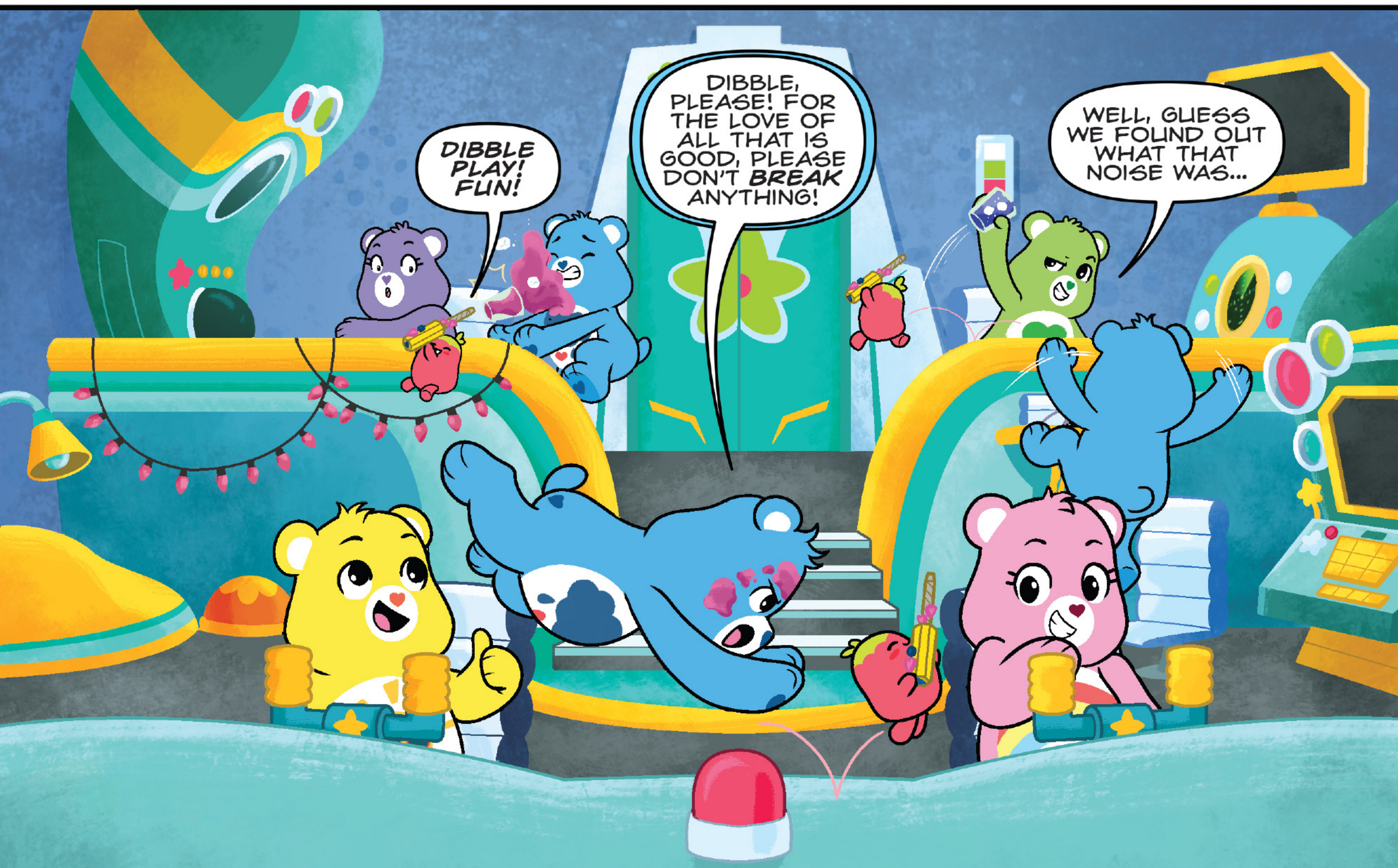
NO REASON TO WORRY, THOUGH—TODAY'S OUR DAY OFF! A LITTLE REST AND RELAXATION, TAKING IT EASY. THAT'S THE TICKET...

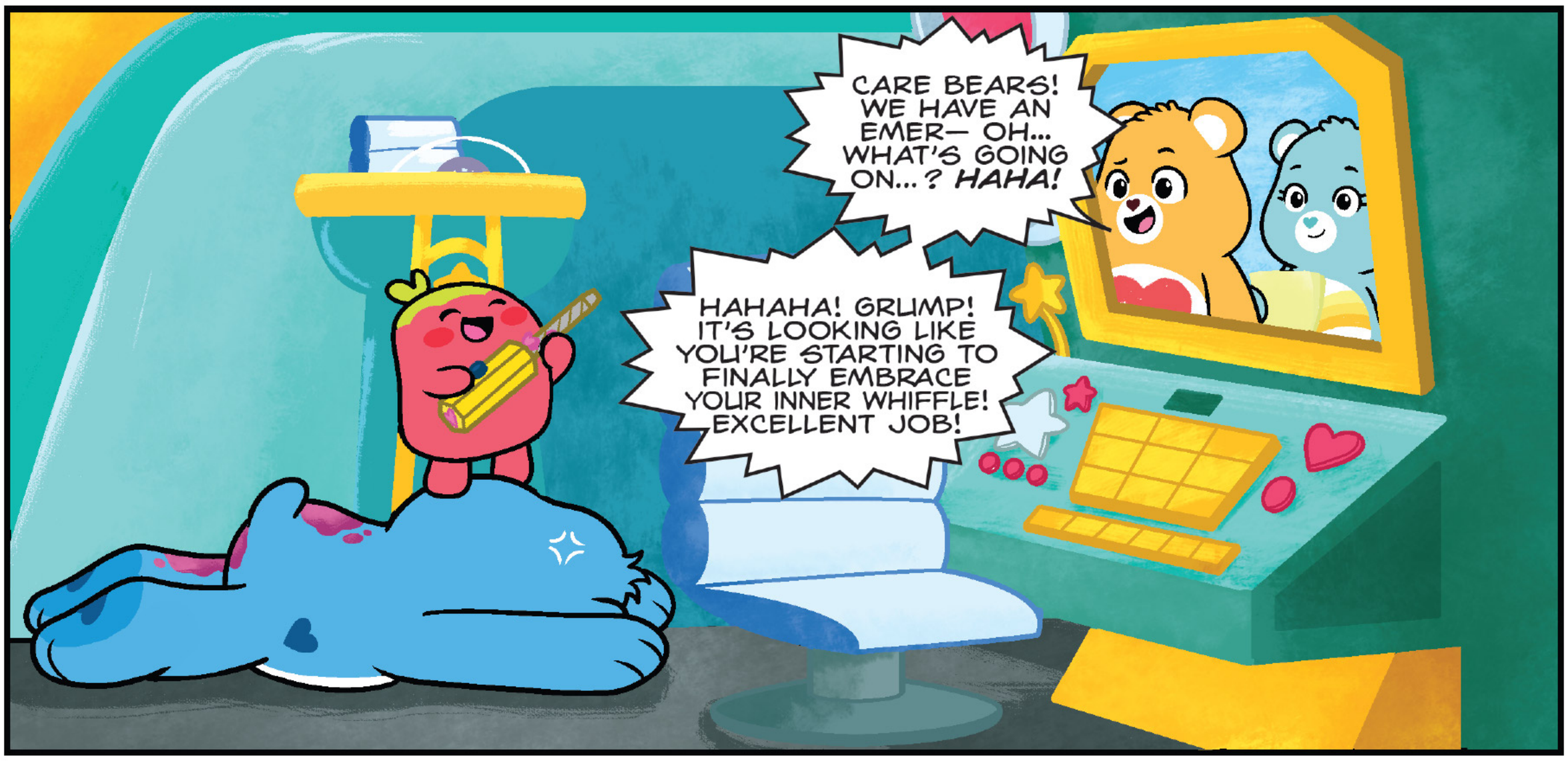

GRUMPY PLAY! DIBBLE BORED!
WELL, ALMOST THE TICKET.

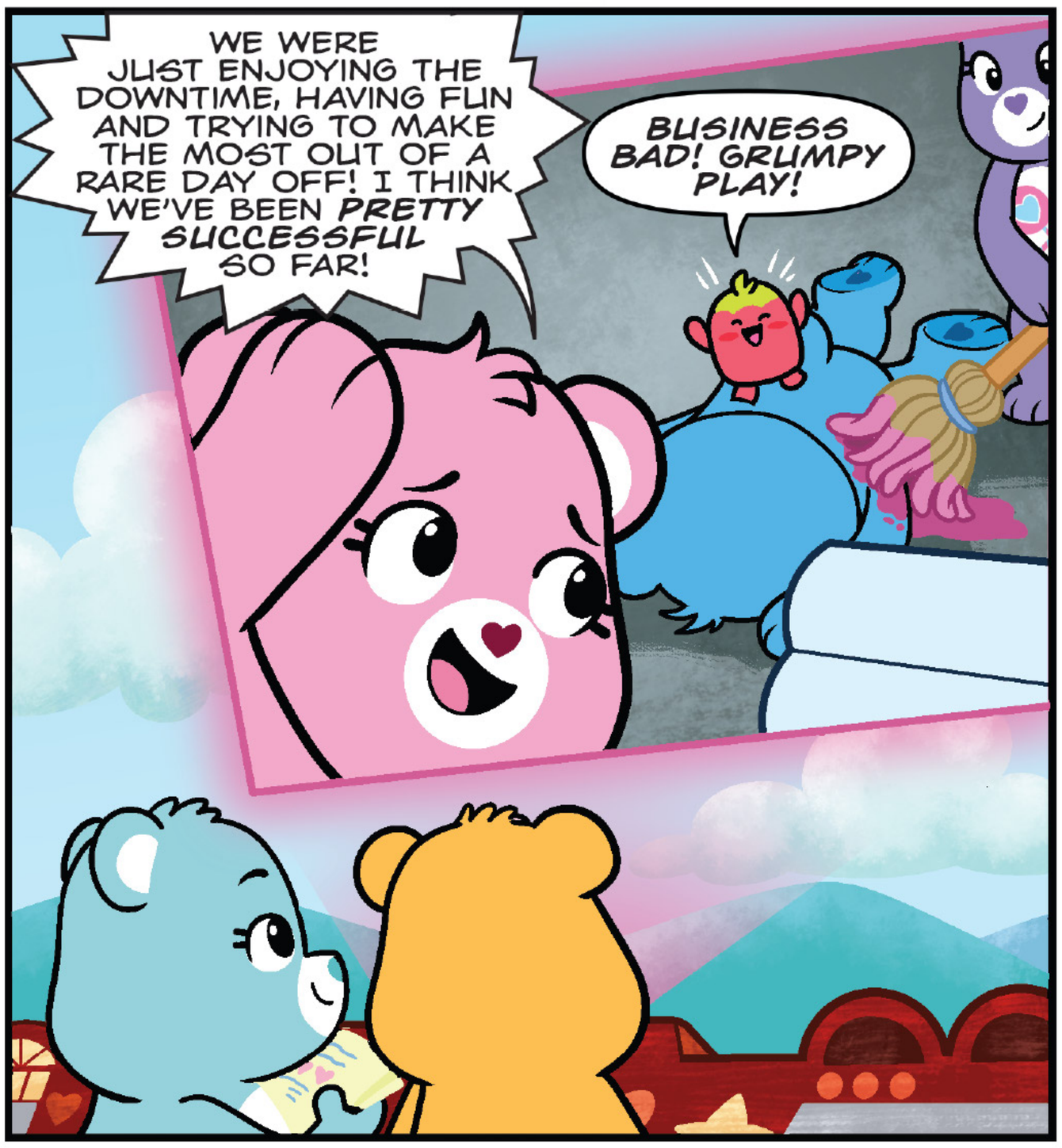
HOW ABOUT WE GO HELP GRUMPY PUT TOGETHER SOME SNACKS? WE HAVE RAINBOW SMOOTHIES, SUGAR-FREE RAINBOW CUPCAKES WITH RAINBOW FROSTING, AND... CELERY STICKS. GREEN CELERY STICKS.
SOUNDS LIKE A PARTY! YOU GOT IT, CHEER! HEY...


WHAT. IS. THAT?!
BAAAAANG
CRAAASSH
BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM

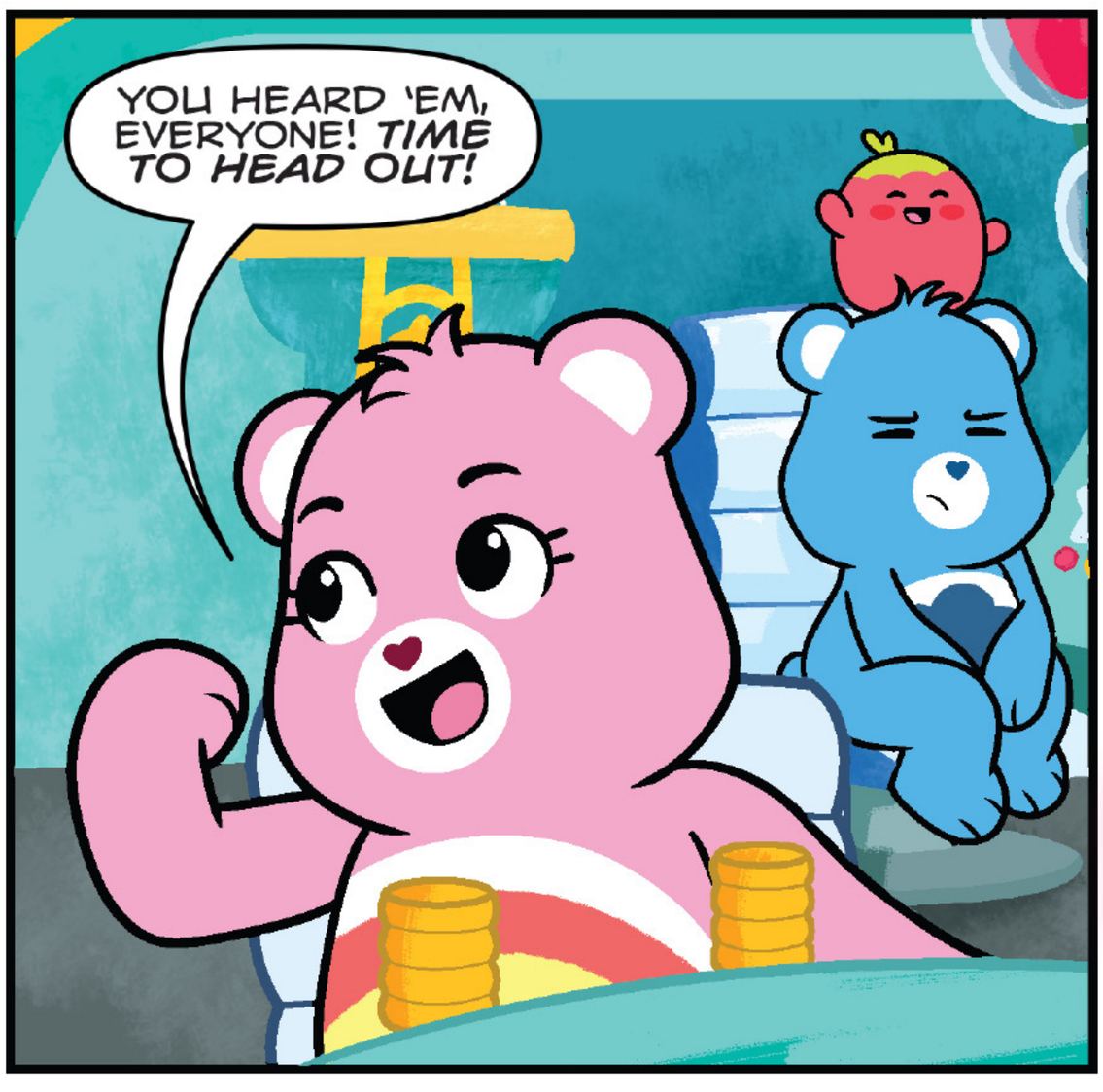
HEY! LET ME SEE WHAT YOU HAVE—
POWER CAREDRIVE!
DIBBLE NO!!

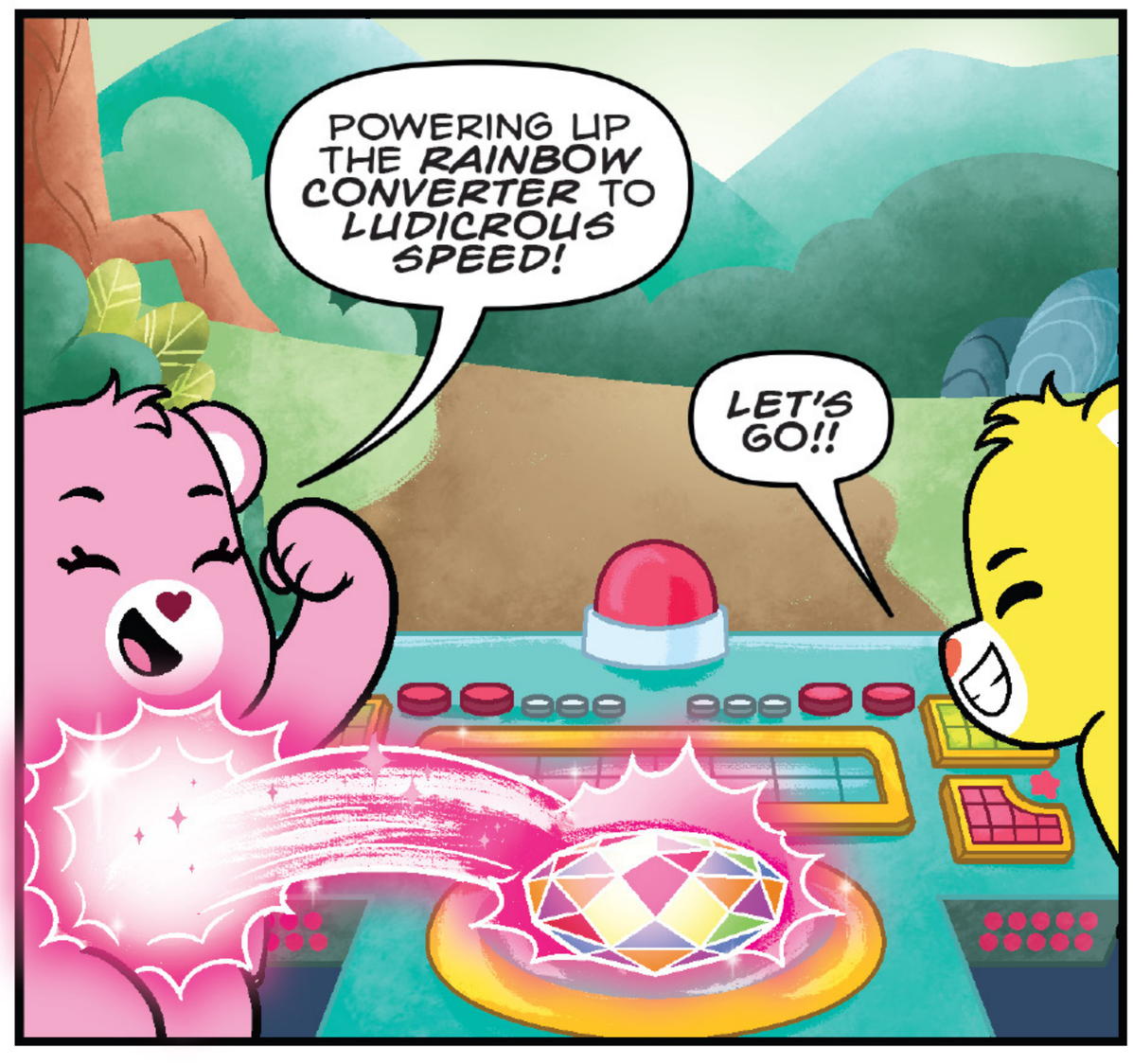

DIBBLE PLAY! FUN!
DIBBLE, PLEASE! FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT IS GOOD, PLEASE DON'T BREAK ANYTHING!
WELL, GUESS WE FOUND OUT WHAT THAT NOISE WAS...


CARE BEARS! WE HAVE AN EMER— OH... WHAT'S GOING ON...? HAHA!
HAHAHA! GRUMP! IT'S LOOKING LIKE YOU'RE STARTING TO FINALLY EMBRACE YOUR INNER WHIFFLE! EXCELLENT JOB!


WE WERE JUST ENJOYING THE DOWNTIME, HAVING FUN AND TRYING TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF A RARE DAY OFF! I THINK WE'VE BEEN PRETTY SUCCESSFUL SO FAR!
BUSINESS BAD! GRUMPY PLAY!

WELL! SORRY TO SAY, BUT WE HAVE A NEW ALERT FOR YOU TO INVESTIGATE! IT SEEMS THAT THE OH-SO-ADORABLE WHIFFLES AT THE GLASS GLACIERS NEED YOUR HELP.
THAT'S NO PROBLEM FOR US! THE WHIFFLES ALWAYS COME FIRST.
BEDTIME WILL FILL EVERYONE IN ON THE DETAILS! BEST WISHES, TEAM!


YOU HEARD 'EM, EVERYONE! TIME TO HEAD OUT!


POWERING UP THE RAINBOW CONVERTER TO LUDICROUS SPEED!
LET'S GO!!

WOOO-HOO!
CAREFUL, CAREFUL!
BEARS! SOMETHING HAS UPSET THE WHIFFLES AT THE GLASS GLACIERS!
THE GLASS GLACIERS ARE A LEGENDARILY MAGICAL AREA! THEY SAY THAT STARING INTO THE MAGIC ICE WILL REVEAL A REFLECTION OF *WHO YOU WANT TO BE.*
THE WHIFFLES THERE ARE TASKED WITH MAKING SURE THE GLACIERS ARE ALWAYS POLISHED AND SHINY, READY FOR VISITORS.
HERE'S THE MAP. DO YOUR BEST TO SEE WHAT'S CAUSED THE WHIFFLES TO STOP WORKING.
NOW IF YOU EXCUSE ME >*YAAWN*< IT SEEMS THAT IT'S *NAP O'CLOCK*... I'LL BE DREAMING FOR YOUR SUCCESS!
SOME DAY OFF! I *WISH* I COULD HAVE A *NAP*...
OH, GRUMPY!
THE GLASS GLACIERS

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